

The Kentucky State Arsenal: A Changing Mission



An official photograph captures Kentucky state police officers at the arsenal, with Adjutant General Henry Denhardt (first on the left). The adjutant general's office was located at the arsenal.

State police officers at Arsenal, October, 1934
Kentucky Historical Society Collections



A fire at the arsenal in 1933 destroyed the roof and portions of the second floor of the building. Furniture from the adjutant general's office was placed on the front lawn.

Arsenal fire, June 30, 1933
Kentucky Historical Society Collections

Since its construction on Arsenal Hill in 1850, the use of the arsenal has evolved as its mission has changed. As headquarters of the Kentucky State and National Guard, the arsenal fulfilled the roles of office building, warehouse, and emergency services center. Today, it is the oldest building maintained by the Kentucky National Guard.

Since 1974, the State Arsenal has served as the Kentucky Military History Museum. It is an integral part of the Kentucky Historical Society campus, which includes the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History and the Old State Capitol.

Governor Wendell H. Ford dedicated the Kentucky Military History Museum in the arsenal in 1974. The museum is a partnership between the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and the Kentucky Historical Society.

Kentucky Military History Museum dedication, February 18, 1974
Kentucky Historical Society Collections



KentuckyMilitaryHistoryMuseum AT THE OLD STATE ARSENAL

A partnership between the Kentucky Department of
Military Affairs and the Kentucky Historical Society

Museums-To-Go is a program of the
KentuckyHistoricalSociety
funded with the support of:

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The Kentucky Historical Society is an agency of the Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet.

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